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touch panel software capable of controlling and interpreting the touch data, and applying the touch data to interactive applications of the gaming machine assembly.

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21. (Amended) An enhanced mechanical reel gaming system utilizing multiple touch panels as user control devices for mechanical reel assemblies and game play features, the system comprising:

a control panel assembly;

a plurality of touch sensor assemblies utilizing substantially transparent touch panels that produce touch data when activated, and wherein the touch panels provide viewing of the mechanical reel assemblies through the touch panels;

at least one touch panel controller capable of controlling and interpreting the touch panels; and

touch panel software capable of controlling and interpreting the touch data, and applying the touch data to interactive applications of the control panel assembly.

22. (Amended) An enhanced mechanical reel gaming kit for modifying an existing reel gaming machine assembly, the kit utilizing a touch panel as a user control device for mechanical reel assemblies and game play features, the kit comprising:

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a touch sensor assembly utilizing a substantially transparent touch panel that produces touch data when activated, and wherein the touch panel provides viewing of the mechanical reels through the touch panel;

a touch panel controller capable of controlling and interpreting the touch panel; and
touch panel software capable of controlling and interpreting the touch data, and applying the touch data to interactive applications of the gaming machine assembly.

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42. (Amended) An enhanced mechanical reel gaming kit for modifying an existing reel gaming machine assembly, the kit utilizing multiple touch panels as user control devices for mechanical reel assemblies and game play features, the kit comprising:

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a plurality of touch sensor assemblies utilizing substantially transparent touch panels that produce touch data when activated, and wherein the touch panels provides viewing of the mechanical reel assemblies through the touch panels;

at least one touch panel controller capable of controlling and interpreting the touch panels; and

touch panel software capable of controlling and interpreting the touch data, and applying the touch data to interactive applications of the gaming machine assembly.

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43. (Amended) A process for enabling enhanced mechanical reel gaming utilizing a touch panel as a user control device for mechanical reel assemblies and game play features, the process comprising:

utilizing a gaming machine assembly having mechanical reels as display devices;

providing a touch sensor assembly with a substantially transparent touch panel that produces touch data when activated;

providing viewing of the mechanical reels through the touch panel;

controlling and interpreting the touch panel utilizing a touch panel controller;

controlling and interpreting the touch data utilizing touch panel software; and

applying the touch data to interactive applications of the gaming machine assembly.

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63. (Amended) A process for enabling enhanced mechanical reel gaming utilizing multiple touch panels to provide user control for mechanical reel assemblies and game play features, the process comprising:

utilizing a control panel assembly;

providing a plurality of touch sensor assemblies with a substantially transparent touch panels that produce touch data when activated;

providing viewing of the mechanical reels through the touch panels;

controlling and interpreting the touch panels utilizing at least one touch panel controller;

controlling and interpreting the touch data utilizing touch panel software; and
applying the touch data to interactive applications of the control panel assembly.

64. (Amended) A computer program product readable by a computing system and encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process for enabling enhanced mechanical reel gaming utilizing a touch panel as a user control device for mechanical reel assemblies and game play features, said computer process comprising:

receiving touch data produced when a touch sensor assembly with a substantially transparent touch panel is activated, wherein the substantially transparent touch panel provides viewing of the mechanical reel assemblies through the touch panel;

controlling and interpreting the touch panel;

controlling and interpreting the touch data; and

applying the touch data to interactive applications of a gaming machine assembly having mechanical reels as display devices.

84. (Amended) A computer program product readable by a computing system and encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process for enabling enhanced mechanical reel gaming utilizing multiple touch panels to provide user control for mechanical reel assemblies and game play features, said computer process comprising:

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receiving touch data produced when touch sensor assemblies with substantially transparent touch panels are activated, wherein the substantially transparent touch panels provide viewing of the mechanical reel assemblies through the touch panels;

controlling and interpreting the touch panels;

controlling and interpreting the touch data; and

applying the touch data to interactive applications of [the] control panels.

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED PAGES SHOWING THE AMENDMENTS IN FULL.

1. (Amended) An enhanced mechanical reel gaming system utilizing a touch panel as a user control device for mechanical reel assemblies and game play features, the system comprising:

a gaming machine assembly utilizing mechanical reels as display devices;

a touch sensor assembly utilizing a substantially transparent touch panel that produces touch data when activated, and wherein the touch panel provides viewing [behind] of the mechanical reels through the touch panel;

a touch panel controller capable of controlling and interpreting the touch panel; and

touch panel software capable of controlling and interpreting the touch data, and applying the touch data to interactive applications of the gaming machine assembly.

21. (Amended) An enhanced mechanical reel gaming system utilizing multiple touch panels as user control devices for mechanical reel assemblies and game play features, the system comprising:

a control panel assembly;

a plurality of touch sensor assemblies utilizing substantially transparent touch panels that produce touch data when activated, and wherein the touch panels provide viewing [behind] of the mechanical reel assemblies through the touch panels;

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touch panel software capable of controlling and interpreting the touch data, and applying the touch data to interactive applications of the control panel assembly.

22. (Amended) An enhanced mechanical reel gaming kit for modifying an existing reel gaming machine assembly, the kit utilizing a touch panel as a user control device for mechanical reel assemblies and game play features, the kit comprising:

a touch sensor assembly utilizing a substantially transparent touch panel that produces touch data when activated, and wherein the touch panel provides viewing [behind] of the mechanical reels through the touch panel;

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42. (Amended) An enhanced mechanical reel gaming kit for modifying an existing reel gaming machine assembly, the kit utilizing multiple touch panels as user control devices for mechanical reel assemblies and game play features, the kit comprising:

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43. (Amended) A process for enabling enhanced mechanical reel gaming utilizing a touch panel as a user control device for mechanical reel assemblies and game play features, the process comprising:

utilizing a gaming machine assembly having mechanical reels as display devices;

providing a touch sensor assembly with a substantially transparent touch panel that produces touch data when activated;

providing viewing [behind] of the mechanical reels through the touch panel;

controlling and interpreting the touch panel utilizing a touch panel controller;

controlling and interpreting the touch data utilizing touch panel software; and

applying the touch data to interactive applications of the gaming machine assembly.

63. (Amended) A process for enabling enhanced mechanical reel gaming utilizing multiple touch panels to provide user control for mechanical reel assemblies and game play features, the process comprising:

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utilizing a control panel assembly;

providing a plurality of touch sensor assemblies with a substantially transparent touch panels that produce touch data when activated;

providing viewing [behind] of the mechanical reels through the touch panels;

controlling and interpreting the touch panels utilizing at least one touch panel controller;

controlling and interpreting the touch data utilizing touch panel software; and

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controlling and interpreting the touch panel;

controlling and interpreting the touch data; and

applying the touch data to interactive applications of a gaming machine assembly having mechanical reels as display devices.

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controlling and interpreting the touch panels;

controlling and interpreting the touch data; and

applying the touch data to interactive applications of [the] control panels.